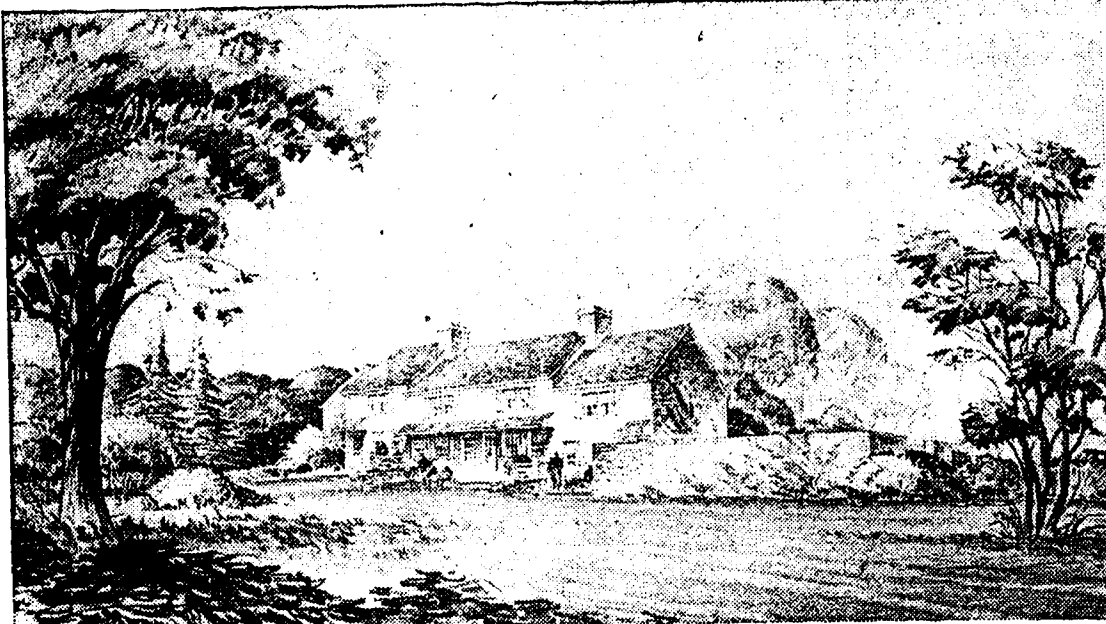
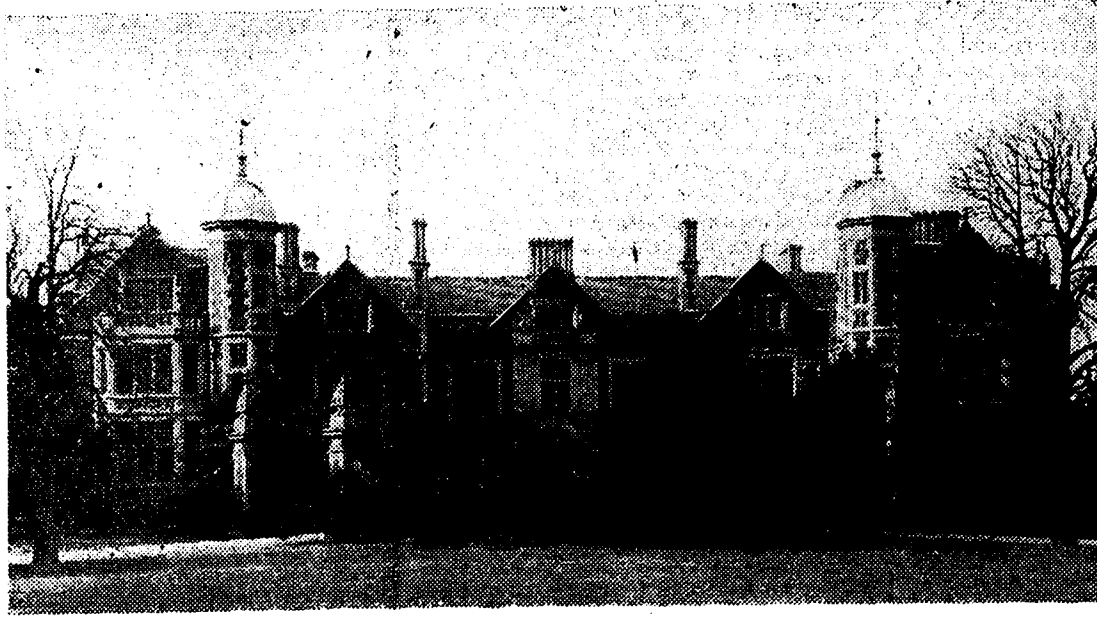


County Court Approves 2.5 Mill Increase in Borough Tax Rate; Calls Budget Result of 'Honest and Intelligent Planning'



A DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY APARTMENTS is planned for the famous Percival Roberts estate in Penn Valley by the Home Life Insurance Company of America, it was disclosed this week. Above, left, is an architect's sketch of one of the 39 proposed residential units, each of which will contain eight to ten apartments. At right, above, is a picture of the 75-room Roberts home, "Pennhurst," a replica of a 500-year-old English castle, which contained fabulous art treasures and which the Baron of Pencoyd tore down following an unsuccessful court battle to prevent Lower Merion Township from building an incinerator near his property.



When the courts decided in favor of the township in 1938 and the construction of the incinerator was begun, Roberts and his wife left "Pennhurst," never to return, and the castle was razed the following year. Roberts, whose father founded the A&P Roberts Co., which later became the American Bridge Co., was for many years a director of the United States Steel Co., which absorbed the American Bridge Co. in 1901. He was a well-known breeder of Ayrshire cattle, and his garden, which will be preserved in the new development, contained many rare botanical specimens. He died March 6, 1943, in New Orleans.

Judge Knight Says Council Studied Other Sources Of Revenue; Questions Need for \$1500 for Planning Commission and \$1500 Jump for Library; Council Meeting Planned for February 25

Clothing Drive Nets 75 Tons in Main Line Area

Committee Pleased With Results; Bad Weather Fails to Halt All-Out Drive

Main Line residents, in a magnificent gesture of aid to their less fortunate fellowmen, contributed more than 75 tons of clothing and comforts to the Clothing Drive staged Saturday. Contributions are still pouring in, the committee announced on Wednesday, and the results exceeded the expectations of the committee itself, as well as Church World Service, which will distribute the contributions to the needy of Europe.

Because the more than 1100 volunteer workers were unable to reach every home in the area in Saturday's downpour, the Main Line Ministerial Association is sending another truck on Saturday to collect the remainder of the drive.

The following letter to all those who aided in Saturday's drive was issued this week by the chairman, the Rev. Harold S. Faust:

February 17, 1948.
Thanks is expressed to all who in any way contributed to the great success of the St. Valentine's day clothing drive for needy Europe. The cooperation of committees, business and civic organizations, and private individuals exceeded even our greatest expectation. The gifts contributed were of great quality and a delight to the officials of the Church World Service who felt honored to send these tons of excellent gifts. The quantity was so great that extra arrangements had to be made to transport the generous donations made.

It would be impossible to give credit to the hundreds of people who so willingly gave gifts of time, service, money and material contributions. Our only means of expressing the thanks of all those who planned this work is to thank you in the name of those for whom the gift was intended.

HAROLD S. FAUST,
President, Main Line Ministerial Assoc.

contributions. Still stored in Narberth and Bala-Cynwyd are roomfuls of clothing, blankets and other articles, and the final checkup in Ardmore will be made on Saturday, February 21, from 9 A. M. until 12 noon.

Workers on Saturday used more than 500 cars to make the rounds (Continued on Page Four)

Insurance Company Seeks to Build 39 Units, Housing 400 Families

Rock Garden, Arboretum Will Be Preserved If Project Is Approved

Plans for a five million dollar country-apartment development on the famed Percival Roberts estate in Penn Valley were disclosed this week by Daniel J. Walsh, of Penn Valley, president of the Home Life Insurance Company of America, owners of the property.

The project is the first planned for Lower Merion Township since enactment of a State law permitting life insurance companies to invest their funds in long term real estate developments.

The proposed development, which will include 400 residential units, scheduled to rent for from \$100 to \$150 a month, provides for the perpetual maintenance of Roberts' world-famous rock garden and arboretum.

Although the entire tract covers 75 acres, the development will utilize only an inside area of 57 acres, and the actual buildings will occupy only 1 and a half percent of the latter acreage. Walsh said. Zoning restrictions now in effect (the tract is zoned R-1) permit building upon 15 percent of the ground area.

The Roberts property, located on Conshohocken State and Hagys Ford Rds., is now zoned R-1, which permits only single residences. In order to proceed with its plans, the insurance company must obtain a re-zoning of the property from the Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners. Despite the elaborate country-home nature of the proposed development, it is nevertheless classified as an apartment development and could only be built in an area zoned R-5.

Although no application for a zoning change has been filed as yet, the proposal has already run into opposition from the Penn Valley Civic Association, whose directors were consulted by the property owners before announcing the development plans.

After a meeting of the civic association directors, the president, M. K. Kelcham, telephoned Daniel J. Walsh, president of the Home Life Insurance Company, Wednesday, and officially notified him that the board had voted 14 to 1 against approval of the Roberts tract project.

"Our final conclusion," Kelcham said, "was that even though your proposition had a great deal of merit, we are opposed to any changes in the existing zoning."

Recommended plans, outlined by Harrison, Ballard and Allen, New York architects retained by the insurance company, call for 39 separate (Continued on Page Four)



PERCIVAL ROBERTS, JR., country-apartments planned on his Penn Valley estate.

Red Cross Drive Opens in March

Reminded of Objective; New Group Is Formed

The Main Line was reminded this week that the annual Fund Drive of the American Red Cross begins in March, and that the objective for this area is \$200,000. Mrs. S. J. Owen and Mrs. William Prescott Watts have been making preparations for months, lining up leaders, checking teams of workers and insuring complete coverage.

Recently formed, to aid the Fund Drive, was a publicity committee, headed by Charles Fanslow and Mrs. J. P. Crawford. The committee's first act will be to distribute hundreds of stickers to be displayed in store windows from Bala-Cynwyd to Villanova. To speed this work it has enlisted the aid of three local colleges, whose students will approach the local business establishments early next week, asking permission to place the stickers. Businessmen in the Main Line area have always been cooperative in the past, the committee reports.

Also on hand are 10,000 folders explaining the objectives of the Red Cross. These will be placed in the packages of all shoppers in the Super Markets.

Within the next few weeks the Fund Drive will be launched in earnest. The committee is preparing literature to tell Main Liners why so much money is needed in peacetime, what the Red Cross expects to do with it, and how it is going about raising the money. Local papers will carry all releases, anyone who has questions still unanswered has been invited to write to local Red Cross headquarters, or to members of the publicity committee.

Volunteer drivers are urgently needed to supplement the motor cars. Men and women between the ages of 18 and 50, who are competent drivers and can spare some time for this cause, are asked to call Ardmore 3100 for further information.

Services Held for Mrs. Helen H. Guest

Funeral services for Mrs. Helen H. Guest, of 228 Crosshill Rd., Penn Wynne, who died in Jefferson Hospital Saturday after a long illness, were held Wednesday afternoon from the Snover Funeral Home, Palmyra, N. J.

A native of New Jersey, Mrs. Guest lived in Penn Wynne for the past three years. She is survived by her husband, Paul I. Guest, and two daughters, Joan and Carol. Interment was in Lakeview Memorial Park.

Speech Training Necessary, PTA Told Monday

Lecturer States Need Of Stressing Training

The importance of voice and speech in the world of today was discussed at a meeting of the Narberth Parent-Teachers' Association, held Monday night in the school auditorium.

Miss Nancy Simpson, a resident of Narberth and lecturer and radio actress, who was guest speaker for the evening, stated that the majority of well-educated Americans do not speak acceptably. Speech, she said, is influenced by environment rather than heredity.

"The chief faults we hear in the speech about us," she stated, "are carelessness, high pitch, throat tension, and lack of resonance. These faults, including sectional errors, can be corrected by the proper exercise, and it is never too late to change."

Pointing out that speech is not stressed enough in the public schools, Miss Simpson said, "Expression itself is the theoretical aim of education and much is lost because of poor speech."

"It is as important for the teachers to develop their voices," Miss Simpson stated, "as it is to develop the voices of their students. Serenity, poise, and friendliness must be given to the pupils through the teacher's voice."

Miss Simpson demonstrated exercises which would improve speaking faults and concluded her talk by stating that force, purpose and a pleasing tone are to be developed and cherished. The voice, she added, is the reporter of the thoughts, moods and condition of the individual.

Jordan Oliver to Speak to Post

Jordan Oliver, Head Coach at Villanova College, will be the speaker at a meeting of the Harold D. Speakman Post, No. 356, of the American Legion, at the Community Building, Narberth, at 8 P. M., Tuesday.

Oliver, who will speak on "Highlights of 1947 Football Games," will illustrate the talk with movies of the games.

Also listed as a speaker is John F. Brennan, who will speak on "National Service Life Insurance and Its Importance to Veterans." Plans are being formulated under the chairmanship of William Clapham, for an auction sale to be held April 8.

At the January meeting the Post voted to continue their customary observance of Memorial Day in Narberth. A committee headed by R. C. Rollins has been appointed to draw up plans.

James K. McCutcheon, ex-USAFAF of 206 Essex Ave., Narberth, was recently accepted into Post membership.

Former Boro Resident Is Refused Divorce

Montgomery County Judge William F. Dannehower has refused to grant a divorce to William R. Cocker, formerly of Narberth from Mae E. Cocker. The judge ruled that county courts had no jurisdiction because Cocker had not shown he had a legal home in the county.

Cocker, an engineer, had maintained that his home was in Narberth when he filed the libel but that he was temporarily living in Arlington, N. J., because of work he was doing.

The Cockers were married September 17, 1932, and lived together until June 9, 1944, when Mrs. Cocker left their home and went to live in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County.

Move to Increase Gladwyne Zoning Stirs Residents to Controversy

The "suburban way of life" gained a new interpretation Wednesday night as Lower Merion Township Commissioners were asked to consider a petition which would boost zoning in Gladwyne to an exclusive R-1 residential area.

Appearing in support of the petition, which would increase the required amount of ground surrounding single-family dwellings, were comparative newcomers to Gladwyne, who said they wanted to keep the area a place of pleasant country living, within easy commuting distance of the city. Opposing it were earlier residents of the area. The last mentioned said they would welcome the appearance of newcomers in the area, "particularly ex-G.I.s and their families," who could afford to build

only smaller homes than those required by R-1 zoning, but whom they felt would be "valuable additions to our community."

"I don't see how these people who've just come to our section have a right to tell other people how they should live," said Mrs. Thomas Doran, whose husband's family has lived at 332 Conshohocken State Rd. for four generations, and who has lived there for 30 years herself. "They came out here seeking a better way of life—and now they want to prevent others from doing the same thing! I think this is unjust and unfair. Personally, I'm an old woman. I want to sell my three acres, and I'd like to sell it to some of these nice ex-G.I.s who went out and built homes."

(Continued on Page Four)

30th Anniversary Playhouse Group For Narberth Holds Meeting

Employed by Telephone Company as Engineer



LUTHER C. WURSTER

Luther C. Wurster, of 428 Essex Ave., Narberth, marked 30 years' service with the Bell Telephone Company February 16. He is an engineer of outside plants for the company in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Starting with the company in 1914 as a draftsman in Harrisburg, Wurster took a leave of absence to attend Lehigh University. Graduating from the University in 1925 after serving during the first World War with the 425th Telegraph Battalion of the Signal Corps, Wurster returned to the Bell Telephone as an engineering assistant.

In 1939 he was named plant wire chief in Williamsport and the following year he was named plant supervisor in Allentown. In 1941 he returned to Harrisburg as division plant engineer, which post he held until he came here to his present post in 1945.

He is a member of the Engineers Society of Pennsylvania, the Masons and the Telephone Pioneers of America. He is married and has two children.

Do you collect stamps?
Old magazines?
Anything? Read
THINKING OUT LOUD

The popular new column with a Main Line Locale
Turn to Page 2

Church Approves Rebuilding Plans

Narberth Presbyterians To Spend \$160,000

Plans for enlarging and improving the Narberth Presbyterian Church at an estimated cost of \$160,000 were presented and approved at the annual congregational dinner-meeting Wednesday night.

The church, whose membership has grown from 400 to 930 since 1940, has been overcrowded for the past three years, and a building committee was appointed three months ago, under the chairmanship of C. H. Woolmington, to seek a solution to the problem. The seating capacity is 400 and the average weekly attendance is 450.

The plans, presented by Woolmington, include extending of the sanctuary (or auditorium) so as to increase the seating capacity to between 750 and 800; remodeling of Sunday School rooms on the second floor of the three-story structure; construction of a second floor over the one-story wing of the church; and tearing down the bell tower.

After the 170 men and women present accepted the plan, they voted to raise the money by subscription and to put the building committee in charge of the pledging and collection program. They also voted to postpone building operations until costs came down and until at least 60 percent of the money needed was in sight.

The subscriptions will be on a three-year basis and every member of the congregation will be asked to support the plan. At the meeting a poll of members present was taken to determine how much each could contribute to the fund.

The total pledged was \$25,760 and Woolmington announced that there was already \$7800 in the fund.

Building committee members include Woolmington, Robert L. Beatty, Roy Hope, Lloyd Hertzler, Ralph Heister, Larry Altman, Paul Loos, Ralph Rankin and Harry Simpson.

Higher Gas Rate Goes Into Effect

\$1,041,926 Boost Affects Consumers

Increased gas rates affecting residents of this area become effective today.

The \$1,041,926 increase for 156,000 consumers in Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks, Chester and Lancaster Counties was authorized by the State Public Utility Commission.

The new rates replace a proposed tariff filed by the Philadelphia Electric Co. last November but suspended by the PUC pending an investigation. The rates proposed last November would have cost electric company gas customers \$29,216 more than the rates now authorized.

"We are of the opinion and find that the public interest does not require further prosecution of this case," the commission said, "and we will permit the company to file the new rates."

They provide for a minimum charge of \$1 for the first 200 cubic feet for general services. The next 1,800 cubic feet will cost \$1.30 per thousand cubic feet; the next 6,800 cubic feet at the rate of 75 cents a thousand cubic feet; the next 70,000 cubic feet at the rate of 65 cents a thousand cubic feet, and for gas over that amount 55 cents a thousand cubic feet.

Plan Reopening Of Night School

Adult Education Courses to Be Offered

The Main Line Night School, discontinued during the war, will be reopened March 15, according to an announcement made this week by Harry C. Creutzburg, of Wayne, president of the association sponsoring the project.

The school, which will be held at the Lower Merion High School, will offer courses in adult education and will run for six weeks. Originally organized in 1937 and held in Radnor High School, the program is sponsored by the Main Line High School Association with the co-operation of both the Lower Merion and Radnor High Schools.

In announcing the opening of the spring session, Creutzburg said: "The revival of night school is the result of many requests from those who have attended in the past, or who have heard about the classes. The Main Line is one of the first areas in the country to organize adult education as a community project, and the thousands who attended our courses clearly show the need for such a program."

"We hope the terms 'night school' and 'adult education' will not give anyone the wrong impression," he continued, "although we do require that our courses be well planned and the instructors top-flight, school night has to be fun, too. Actually, we try to make it as much fun and sociable recreation as possible. There's no homework or anything like that involved. We know people do not have time to do it."

HEALTH REPORT

There were 88 new cases of measles, 10 of chicken pox and one each of scarlet fever, German measles and diabetes, in Lower Merion Township last week, according to Robert J. Thomas, Health Officer.

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Committee Pleased With Results; Bad Weather Fails to Halt All-Out Drive

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"Why plan more projects," Judge Knight asked in the decision, "when a number of planned projects have been tabled indefinitely for lack of funds. This item should be omitted entirely, and in our opinion represents an attempted exercise of arbitrary will or caprice rather than a desire to serve the public welfare?"

"We are of the opinion," the decision added, "that the increase of \$1500, from \$2500 to \$4000, for the public library is excessive, and the result more of a guess than a careful investigation of the needs of the library and other sources of revenue."

An open meeting of the Council has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday night, February 25, to discuss final passage of the revised 1948 budget.

No further action or appeal has been announced to date by the residents who objected to the increased tax rate.

The Borough's petition to raise the tax rate over the 15 mills allowed by law was presented to the Court as the result of a new law passed recently which allows borough to raise their tax rate provided the County Court approves.

The raise in the Borough's tax rate will bring the total tax rate to 17 1/2 mills for general purposes and 2.75 mills for debt service, street lighting and shade tree commission, making a total tax rate of 20.25 mills if Borough Council decides to impose all of the additional levy allowed by the Court.

AWARD ESTATE

Juliette Cunningham, of Narberth, who died November 21, 1946, left an estate with a balance of \$5,255.23, which was awarded as follows: Frank C. Henry, \$2,074.66; Frank C. Henry, Jr., \$1,750; Kathryn H. Keer \$300; Robert Gold, \$232.08; George Henry, \$400.86; Kate Gold, \$134.96; Ruth H. Leeson, Robert G. Henry and John A. Henry, \$44.89, and Helen Quinn, \$134.96.

OUR TOWN

IS ON SALE EACH WEEK AT THE FOLLOWING STORES:

- Davis Store, 224 Haverford Ave., Narberth.
- Granite Drug Store, Montgomery Ave., Narberth.
- Narberth News, 238 Haverford Ave., Narberth.
- Trainer's, 238 Woodbine Ave., Narberth.

